

SOCCER WEEKLY

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Now the battle for the Championship is on—

GEO. CROSS SHOOT TO TOP AS HELLAS DUMPS POLONIA

By MORRIE BUCKNER

George Cross unexpectedly found itself up in the box seat when Sth. Melb. - Hellas shocked and delighted a crowd of 11,000 fans at Olympic Park last Sunday by inflicting a stunning 4-1 defeat on the undefeated league leader POLONIA.

Hellas had Polonia down 0-4 with seven minutes to go when Polonia scored its only goal from a penalty kick.



HELLAS SHOULD BEAT HAKOAH AT THE PARK

By MORRIE BUCKNER

If South Melbourne-Hellas can repeat the form it displayed in thrashing Polonia 4-1 last Sunday it should be able to beat Hakoah at Olympic Park next Saturday.

On all known performances, it is impossible to say that the Mannerling - Alexander - Woodward-Adams-Hartley defensive combination is better than the Gronowski - Gasior - Guardiani-Sklarek-Dudon quintet. If the Hellas attack was able to cut through the Polonia defence like a knife through cheese last week, is there any reason to believe that it can't do the same to Hakoah?

Did their share

Johnny Margarites scored two goals against Polonia and made another for Bedford, but it wasn't a one-man band by any means. Teddy Smith, Manny Tsolakis, Adonni Hatzefetheriou, Johnny Bedford, and George Gerdan all did their share in attack.

And Hellas' four stoppers - Steve Kaligeros, Jimmy Mantarakes, Takis Xanthopoulos, and Jordan

St. Albans boy breaks leg

Andon Ecinovic, 17, who plays for St. Albans Hask Under 18's, broke a leg playing against Sunshine City last Saturday.

Andon is the son of the president of Hask. Andon is in Footscray Hospital and would welcome visitors.

In four weeks of junior competition, this is the second boy to break a leg this season.

Jeremiades — refused to sell any of the Polonia forwards a single ticket for a trip to the net. Hakoah took a leaf out of Robert Gronowski's book, however. The Polonia right-winger tried half-a-dozen long shots, any of which, if

on target, may have beaten George Karposas. If Villers, McQuillan, and Hartley find the way to the goal area barred, perhaps they could try Gronowski's method with a little more accuracy and success.

THERE'S PLENTY OF ACTION in this picture!

Polonia Reserve player Ritter turned out on the right wing for his side when Polish international Edmund Zientara was injured against South Melbourne - Hellas at the Park last Sunday.

Ritter clashes with a Hellas player and the ball spins between them.

This action picture was taken by Soccer Weekly photographer UWE KUESSNER, of 10 Dudley Parade, Canterbury, from whom copies can be obtained.

SPURS TO WIN THE CUP

The 90th English Cup final will be fought out on Saturday at the great Wembley Stadium in London. The contesting clubs — Tottenham Hotspur and Burnley — have not in this long existence had great success in the tournament.

'Spurs have won the cup on three previous occasions, 1901, 1921 and in 1961.

Burnley's only success was gained in the 1914 season.

Thousands of supporters will travel from all parts of Lancashire to support Burnley and they'll find an organisation second to none when

they arrive at Wembley for instance—

● The Wembley car park will be crammed with 5000 cars.

● 35 bars will be open inside the stadium.

● 450 stewards will supervise seating and terracing arrangements (Wembley seats 45,000).

● At least 250 police will be on duty.

● The Press-box over the main stand will accommodate 250 correspondents.

● After the match it will take four hours to clear traffic-jams.

● Special guards will patrol on Friday night to prevent fans climbing in to the ground.

The line-ups are likely to be:

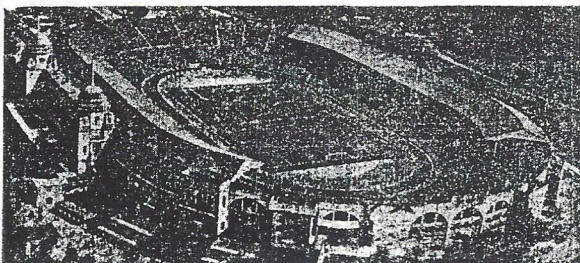
'SPURS: Brown, Baker, Henry, Blanchflower, Norman, Mackay, Medwin, White, Smith, Greaves, Jones.

BURNLEY: Blacklaw, Angus, Elder, Adamson, Cummings, Miller, Connolly, McIlroy, Pointer, Robson, Harris.

Referee should be Mr Arthur Holland, a 45-year-old miner from Barnsley, Yorkshire.

I think Spurs with a more powerful and better balanced combination will beat Burnley, who may have worn themselves out fighting Ipswich for the League championship.

—JIM COOK.



The defeat tumbled Polonia to third place on the ladder.

It was unfortunate for Polonia and the big crowd that a few minutes after the kick-off Edmund Zientara, the famous Polish international who was making his first appearance in Australia, sustained suspected torn ligaments near the right ankle and was forced to leave the field.

In this match Hellas was no longer guilty of the glaring fault in attack which kept its scoring down last year and during the Ampol Cup season — the tendency of the forwards to close up and crowd the play every time they reached the penalty area.

Fast and wide

On Sunday they played the pitch fast and wide, and split one of Victoria's best defence systems wide open time and time again, leaving plenty of holes for piercing and successful forays into the scoring zone.

Johnny Margarites opened the account for Hellas at 15 minutes with a solo move and an angled shot for which goalie Henry Gronowski had no answer.

Stonewalled by Hellas' four-fulback defence, Polonia's right-winger Robert Gronowski tried some long shots, but all he managed to score were some spectacular near-misses.

Just before the interval, Teddy Smith, from the halfway line, cleverly lobbed the ball over advancing fullback Remo Guardiani to reach right-winger Manny Tsolakis, who timed his centre with perfect precision for Margarites to give Hellas a 2-0 half-time lead.

Passenger

Six minutes after resumption, Margarites sent a long through-pass to left winger Johnny Bedford, who beat Gronowski from a sharp angle to make it 3-0.

Mietek Jurecki, who pulled a leg muscle in the interstate game on Easter Monday, was a limping passenger early in the game.

Even so, the Poles had most of the attack in the

SQUAD TRAINS

Victoria's State squad started training at the Showgrounds last night for their interstate games against Queensland and South Australia.

Victoria plays Queensland at Olympic Park on June 4 and South Australia at Adelaide on August 11. Both games are part of the Australian Interstate Championship.

New South Wales beat Victoria 2-0 last week in the first game of the Championship and Victorian players blame their defeat on the lack of playing together.

Wilhelmina's coach Mike De Bruyckere is in charge of the squad. Players include: Polonia: Gronowski, Jurecki, Szygalski, Gasior; George Cross: Falzon, Hodgson, L. Vella; Wilhelmina: Malthysen, Van Alphen; Juventus: Beurcht, Griggs, Kenny; J.U.S.T.: Marinovic, Micic; S.M.-Hellas: Bedford, Smith, Margarites, Mantarakis; Hakoah: Hartley.

second half, with Dudon, Szczepanski, Sklarek and Guardiani delivering the ball to the right places.

But a combination of poor finishing plus rugged and determined defence by Hellas kept Polonia's forwards utterly frustrated.

At 73 minutes, Smith was fouled near the goal line, and Xanthopoulos took the penalty kick to make it 4-0 for Hellas.

Ten minutes later, Ritter

was fouled in front of Hellas' goal when going for a Sczygalski cross, and Robert Gronowski converted the penalty kick for Polonia's only goal of the day.

This was Hellas' best exhibition of positional football since its entry into the State League.

If it can maintain last Sunday's form and systematic approach, it will most certainly be a championship contender.

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BRIGHTER SOCCER ? Not even bizarre results

MELBOURNE 12, SM.-HELLAS 10

OLONIA 16, SLAVIA 0

WILHELMINA 25, LIONS 14

GEORGE CROSS 14, CROAT 7

Like these will pull the crowds back

By FRED VILLIERS

In England they are worried about the lack of public support at soccer matches. So worried in fact that they've spent £6000 on a National research report.

And this is what the Football League have been told:

"National interest in football is very high."

So at least the English Football League have learned that there's a vast audience waiting to be lured back to the stadiums of old England, if those stadiums can be made a little less like old relics.

The report puts the state of the league's 91 grounds fourth among the causes that make fans forsake soccer.

We in Melbourne could certainly do with bigger gates. But how can we get them?

In England they claim brighter football with bigger scores is the answer.

I know what you're going to say. "It's not soccer. It's aerial ping pong."

I agree, but I've heard many Australians say they won't watch soccer because we have too few goals. They're used to big scores and that's all they want.

What, then, can we in Melbourne learn from this report?

As soccer is now "here to stay," according to a sporting journalist last week, we can be guided by the attendance decline in Britain.

We must never allow our grounds and stadiums to deteriorate, not that we have many at present, but as they are built we must look ahead and plan for the future.

We should take advantage of the weaknesses of the so-called national code, which have no grounds of their own.

Surely this is enough incentive for the Federation to plan now so that future top League sides can establish their own grounds and ensure good soccer on a good surface with good accommodation.

Wilhelmina recently set an excellent example with their super stadium at Jubilee Park, Ringwood. Why can't other clubs do this?

It took Wilhelmina two years to complete their project, but surely it was worth it.

Other items from which we can learn much in Melbourne are those on publicity and women supporters.

Here I quote these for your benefit. They make interesting reading.

OUT-OF-DATE

"There is no doubt," the report says, "that out-of-date facilities such as poor seating and toilets help to drive many attenders away from football. Parking facilities are considered inadequate."

"Bad weather, too, may be an important factor in any one person's final decision to give up watching football now that his pocket can stretch to more comfortable alternatives."

To the discomfiture of the clubs who have been told this before — free — the report goes on: "Obviously the answer here is to improve as many of the amenities as possible."

Without this, even bizarre and exciting results like those at the top of the page would not pull back the crowds.

But the report puts three causes above the state of stadiums:

CAUSE 1: Increased

Quick look at the Report

One in five men interviewed had been to a football match this season.

Half the remainder, who had not seen a match for 10 years, were knowledgeable about the game.

What the public wants from the game:—

1. More skill.
2. More speed.
3. More sportsmanship.

What the public wants from the clubs:—

1. Better seating.
2. Better lavatories.
3. Better parking facilities.

Recommendations in the report:—

1. Ban TV soccer.
2. Increase competition.
3. Tempt the women.

persuade some people to return as spectators.

CAUSE 3: The match itself suffers from unskilful teamwork, 'slow, tame play' and poor sportsmanship (dirty play). These facets drive people away.

REMEDY: The public want skilful, fast displays of teamwork. They voted increased competition as the most likely way to achieve this. Standards of sportsmanship also need brushing up if some grounds (who are pained by foul play) are not to be lost to the game.

STANDARDS

Increased promotion and relegation won a majority vote as the best way to improve the standard of play. A reasonable sprinkling of international matches would attract frequent attenders more often.

PUBLICITY: "It would seem that better relations with the Press are needed by both the League and individual clubs."

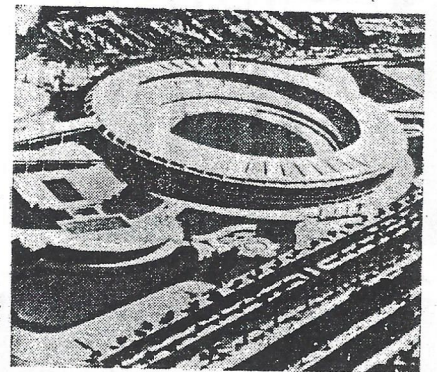
But the clubs are told that already no other subject fills as many inches in the Press as football, but the fact that newspapers may dwell on complaints and transfers may increase dissatisfaction felt by attenders at a below-average match.

[In Melbourne, of course the wrong code of football gets all the publicity as far as the soccer lover is concerned.]

WOMEN: "Very few women attend football matches. More might respond to invitations by their menfolk."

"Attempts might be made to encourage wives and girl friends to be a little more self-sacrificing by letting their menfolk go out to watch League matches."

But the report reiterates its old theme: "Facilities for women and young children at the grounds would have to be improved."



It's stadiums like this that we want to aim for in Australia.

TRIBUNAL ORDERS REPLAY OF GAME

The Federation Disciplinary Tribunal has upheld Slavia's protest re their game against Wilhelmina, in which the Dutchmen beat Slavia 1-0.

Slavia protested that Wilhelmina scored the winning goal after Slavia centre-half John Berry had wrongly been ordered off the field by the referee after an alleged incident.

The incident happened late in the second half when the teams were level 0-0.

Wilhelmina had been attacking and a bunch of players scrambled for the ball together, one of the Wilhelmina players was pushed to the ground.

Berry was among them and the referee was of the opinion that it had been Berry who did the pushing and ordered the player off.

INNOCENT

In the dressing rooms Berry was most upset and he reported to his club officials that he had not done the pushing and was innocent of the alleged offence.

It was with Berry off the ground that Wilhelmina scored the only goal of the game.

Slavia officials wrote a letter of protest for the Disciplinary Tribunal to discuss on the following Thursday night.

The tribunal, under the chairmanship of Mr J. P. O'Connor, read the referee's report and other evidence. He ruled that the player was not guilty of the charge. The tribunal also ruled that the result was null and void and that the game should be replayed.

NEW HAKOAH WINGER STARS

A new face on the Hakoah scene is Bobby Seenan, an outside-left from Belfast, Northern Ireland.

His display for the reserves against J.U.S.T. was so outstanding that he forced Forsythe, a player of much ability, out of the side.

There should be keen rivalry at Hakoah from now on for the left-wing berth.

Rules do not suggest that a re-play should be ordered, but there is no rule that states that a game can't be replayed.

The decision is left entirely with the Investigation Committee.

Wilhelmina officials wrote a sporting letter to the tribunal and indicated that they too thought the incident unfair, and that their team may not have won if Slavia had a full team on the field.

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OUGHTON BACK FROM WEST

Graham Oughton, who originally came to Juventus with Griggs and Tomblin, is back in Melbourne after a spell in Perth.

Graham, a left-wing, has been training with Juventus for the past six weeks and is anxious to play.

But there's a snag. Hakoah was Graham's last club before going to WA and they are anxious to retain his services.

It is to be hoped that a decision can be reached soon, for Oughton could be the answer to Victoria's present wing shortage.

Juventus would be well advised to go flat out for a settlement as Croat again showed the Italians' lack of wing power at Olympic Park on Saturday.

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AUSTRALIA



Thirteen years ago Valentin Mazzola was the "pride and joy" of Italy. Skipper of the national side and captain of Torino, he had years of "big time" soccer in front of him.

But in May, 1949, he died in an air crash at Superga, which also claimed the lives of his Turin team-mates on their way back from a match in Lisbon.

Today, however, the name of Mazzola lives in Italian soccer. For the great inside-left's son, Sandrino, has recently made his league debut... not for Torino but for Inter Milan... alongside Luis Suarez and Gerry Hitchens.

MAJOR Wilson Keys, chairman of West Bromwich Albion, said

the recent £6000 English football survey was a waste of money and "drivel", while bearded Jimmy Hill, former Fulham player, chairman of the Players' Union and now manager of Coventry City, said it was "money well spent".

THERE'S NO TRUTH in a recent newspaper statement that Aussie Rules is the best game in the world. Statistics prove that a "big world" exists outside Victoria.

In fact, Soccer is played in 97 big countries with capitals such as London,

Paris, Madrid, Rome, Athens, etc., etc., etc.

The playing days of the great Ferenc Puskas may be numbered! The maestro has indicated that he may hang up his boots after next season as he has no wish to outlive his usefulness on the soccer field. Puskas, the greatest post-war Hungarian player, went to Spain in 1957 and has been with Real Madrid ever since. According to my Spanish correspondent, Puskas will be offered a top coaching appointment with Real in 1963.

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ON THE STATE LEAGUE

By DUNCAN McDOUGALL
WITH a 100 per cent correct forecast during the past three weeks, including the Croat and South Melbourne-Hellas wins of last week, it is with a great deal of confidence I predict a rather "mixed bag" of results, with home wins to S.M.-Hellas and J.U.S.T. Away wins to George Cross, Wilhelmmina and Croat.

With the only likely draw at Elsternwick Park, in the match between Juventus and Polonia.

Hakoah 2 (Villers, Rogers), Melbourne 1 (Kaiser).

At Middle-Park a crowd of some 600 were kept entertained to a fast, lively game, mainly due to the players' efforts under tricky conditions, but also to referee Cadelli keeping firm control and allowing the play to flow without needless interruptions.

Whatever the feelings about results in previous meetings between the two clubs, there could be no doubt that this time it was a clear-cut win to Hakoah.

Melbourne have a solid defence, with Garrett and More excellent purveyors of the ball and Besci at centre-half always ready to cover up any serious mistakes. However, a team can't go through games with merely a strong back division and a forward-line that misses opportunities through overindulgence in fancy work.

After 18 minutes level pegging play, Melbourne took the lead through hard-hitting Kaiser. It appeared that the Hungarians might possibly take a leaf out of the left-winger's book to play with more directness and purpose.

Melbourne held their lead and shared the play until the 35th minute, when with a gathering tempo in the Hakoah forwards, the ever alert Villers was on the spot to rap home an easy chance through the courtesy of the whole forward line.

Hakoah could possibly have totalled more if Hartley had left the work of the inside-forwards to the inside-forwards. His bull-like rushes got nowhere and it was significant that

Hakoah scored through Villers and had near misses when the captain was well out of the way.

Best — Hakoah: Villers, Adams, Thomas, Mannerings, Melbourne: Besci, Garrett, Kaiser, Alders.

Wilhelmmina 4, Lions 1
Wilhelmmina's Beerenndon was presented with a golden opportunity in front of the Lions' goal but he slipped and shot wide.

One of the few moves made by Lions in the attack fizzled out, and the goal kick put Wilhelmmina into the attack again. A free-kick taken by Van Alphen came to nothing, as did all the other moves made by Wilhelmmina.

The ball was travelling so slowly over the ground that the Lions' defenders had plenty of time to fall back and block any moves made by Wilhelmmina forwards. The Lions' goalkeeper, Voigt, full-backs Marth and Dodig and centre-half Martia were tenacious in defence.

Then Klein (Lions) was given a chance but with only goalkeeper Van Alphen to beat he slipped over and lost possession. By persistent attack Wilhelmmina opened their score. A cross-shot was intercepted by Van Balkom, and he made no mistake. A second goal came to Wilhelmmina when the ball stopped on the goal-line and was bundled through by a ruck of players.

Lions opened the second half attacking. A shot which was deflected but not stopped by Van Alphen was snapped up by outside-right Duske, for Lions' first goal.

A Lions' defender handled in the area and Beerenndon, with a perfect penalty kick, made it 3-1.

Wilhelmmina forced two corners and saw a hard 20-yard shot hit the bar. It was Beerenndon again, with a beautiful solo effort. He fooled the defence and left the Lions' keeper helpless.

George Cross 2, J.U.S.T. 1
George Cross made hard work of defeating J.U.S.T. by the odd goal in three at the Showgrounds before a 2000 crowd. Norm Hobson

reappeared in the George Cross goal after an air trip from Sydney, but J.U.S.T. were minus Vollman, who played with the reserves.

Only three minutes had ticked by when, following good combined play by the Cross left wing pair, centre-forward Gibb headed a nicely taken goal which gave Jankovic no chance. Play see-sawed from end to end and J.U.S.T. winger Schumacher worried the George Cross defence with his speed and artistry.

Seven minutes after interval Copeland made amends for an earlier miss when he squared a perfect ball which Gibb missed, but the ever alert Lolly Vella caught on and smashed in a second goal to put George Cross two goals in front.

With two-thirds of the game gone, J.U.S.T. chopped one off when a series of mistakes in the George Cross goal area presented Van der Poel with a gift chance, which he promptly accepted to beat Hobson.

Summing up: George Cross picked up a couple of valuable points but their play left a lot to be desired. Hobson had a quiet day but was effective when called upon. Both wing halves with Hodgson up front played well, while star performer was Lolly Vella.

J.U.S.T. v SLAVIA
This could be the game of the day in the "provinces" at Schintler Reserve, Footscray. The recent rains will have settled the bumps of the new Yugoslav ground and although slightly heavy, it will favor the more weightier home team.

With Vollman still searching in the reserves for his last season form—which will come as he sheds extra poundage — Van der Poel should continue at centre-forward.

Morrison, a recent importation from Scotland, would no doubt have been in the team before now, having shown impressive form with the reserves, but a bout of flu spoilt that. Fully recovered now, Morrison will make his debut this week at centre-half, a move that will allow Rodék, a forward-line berth with an expected improvement in the goals total.

Both Slavia and J.U.S.T. have scored only one goal more than has been registered against them. So apart from two points, there is little between them.

Slavia have wisely retained the majority of last year's players, a policy that keeps them always clear of the relegation zone, and produces a style of football. Although not always of the highest standard, that is readily effective and adaptable to all forms of opposition, large or small.

At centre-half Berry should subdue Van der Poel as he does most centre-forwards. Haasz, of Slavia, may find Morrison a problem even though the centre-half is some one new.

Drda and Kikas are as

CROAT DEFINITELY A STATE LEAGUE SIDE!

by

Morrie Buckner

Croat passed the acid test and proved its claim to a place in the State League when it toppled Juventus 1-0 at Olympic Park last Saturday.

Croat thus won the distinction of being the first team to beat Juventus this season.

Juventus supporters may claim — legitimately, to some extent — that the side was handicapped. Rain and the sloppy ground killed the speed of their forwards. And Barbazza, with an injured wrist, was on the sidelines.

But Croat was suffering from injuries, too, and fielded an experimental team which, while lacking class and polish, showed tons of promise.

Ilija Djukic in goal had everything thrown at him but the corner flags, but he used his fists cleverly on more than a dozen occasions to punch the greasy ball to safety. His was a top-class performance.

Good on the wings as their counterparts in J.U.S.T. and the excellent support they get from the pass-conscious Glennie at half-back, could be a factor well worth noting by J.U.S.T.

If shots are plentiful spectators will get an entertaining afternoon's display of goalkeeping from Jankovic and Barotjas, both of whom can "put up the shutters" when the occasion demands.

With home ground advantage, I favor J.U.S.T. slightly, but think both teams will settle for a draw.

JUVENTUS v POLONIA

Of the fixtures outside Olympic Park, the game that could have the most bearing on the State League ladder, and probably the most interesting game of the day, is at Elsternwick, between Juventus on their home ground and the toppled League leaders Polonia.

Both Juventus and Polonia I forecast as losing sides in last week's round, and with that in mind, a desperate struggle for reinstating points could mean a share out of one each to both clubs.

Prior to their atrocious display at the Park last weekend, Polonia were not in the habit of having goals booted into their net with any great regularity.

The Greeks changed that all of a sudden, and if goalkeeper Gronowski persists in throwing his clearances to his half-backs for redistribution — a negative policy at the best of times — and throwing extra weight on an over-worked defence, the Italians will be the next combination to bulge their net.

The most progressive forward Polonia have is undoubtedly Reuter, who knows the quickest way to goal, even if he has to employ fancy footwork to get there.

Jurecki at centre-forward is an over-rated commodity, and although dangerous in a solo run, is very rarely in position when his fellow forwards produce goal-scoring passes.

If Barbazza is fit to occupy the centre berth, the new Polish centre-half Sklarek will need to speed up his recovery work, or else Barbazza will have up-ended himself in the penalty area before the centre-half has regained lost ground.

Both defences would be on a par, with maybe the Juventus rearward just a

After a nervous start, Joe Adric at centre-half and George Briscuso at right-back consistently outplayed the Juventus forwards.

Left-half schemer Sal is a shrewd footballer and was a tower of strength in both attack and defence.

It was only in the forward line that spectators saw a lack of combination which was evidence of the experimental nature of the team.

Even here, though, Frank Bot on the left-wing, inside-left Otto Lucnik, and centre-forward Steve Horvath showed plenty of signs that their names will become a lot more familiar to fans as the season wears on.

Until the 82nd minute, however, when Croat

little speedier. And so the outcome hinges on the better functioning of any one forward line.

If he plays and lives up to reputation, Polonias new star could sway the balance, but at centre-half for Juventus, Frangione is no respecter of stars or reputations and on the whole Polonia will find the going hard and maybe glad to share the points.

MORELAND v WILHELMINA

With an average of four goals against per game, Moreland, who meet Wilhelmmina at Campbell Reserve, will have very little hope of reducing this tally against the Dutchmen.

Wilhelmmina's goal average is only very fair for a team just one point from the top, and no doubt every effort will be made, when the chance arises, to log on a heavy average lifting score. That opportunity could be against a luckless Moreland.

Like most State League teams, Wilhelmmina is in need of a consistent leader. With Keuken out of form, the injured Norris, if recovered, could make all the difference to a lethargic Wilhelmmina attack.

Before his injury Norris shaped well in the night series, knows how to line up a goal and can hit them with all the power that is sadly lacking in most Victorian centres.

The changes made by Wilhelmmina in last week's team were not fully tested against Lions, and there was nothing to indicate any improvement.

Moreland are in an unenviable position of trying to produce a winning combination even for one game. No team can settle and play its best as long as necessary changes have to be made in an effort to win. Doubtless Moreland will improve, but if Norris continues in the forwards for Wilhelmmina, there seems very little hope of the home team putting up a winning score.

LIONS v CROAT

Newly promoted teams Lions and Croat meet for the first time in the State League and this game could be an interesting struggle.

So far Croat have proved themselves the better team, as far as results would indi-

scored its winning goal, Beurcht, Frangione, Bukkos, and Patterson were in complete control of their end of the field.

But the Juventus forwards looked unhappy in the rain and the wet conditions, and Noel Kenny was completely off form.

Between them, Griggs and Bukkos put dozens of attacks in motion, but every one of them foundered in the penalty area.

Each side made a replacement because of injury. At 35 minutes, Croat centre-forward Krizmanic went off to be replaced by Horvath. Five minutes later, Juventus right-winger Biro retired and was replaced by Bottari.

The only time that the Juventus defence was out-

cat. But in a game such as this, where old rivals meet, the final result could be very much in doubt.

There appears to be very little between the forward lines of both teams. Certainly neither front rank can claim to be consistent goal-scoring, as three nettings in five matches doesn't strike fear into the opposing defences.

The clues, therefore, lie in the respective defences, also the average of one goal less per game lies in the favor of the Croats. This slight advantage, irrespective of the difference in total points, could be offset by the inclusion of four Richmond players in defence.

With their recognised full side on the field Croat should prove too solid for the Lions. Croat are tough defensively from Djukic, right out to Slivar and Briscusa. In the forwards Lucnik is the man to watch, and he is ably supported by Sal at left-half, probably the best footballer in the team.

In the Lions' goal Voigt will be in for a busy afternoon, but providing all shots are in the air — he doesn't handle grounders too well — there shouldn't be many goals in the Lions' net.

A close game, with Croat's better understanding telling in the end.

—JIM COOK

played resulted in the winning goal.

Bot and Lucnik moved the ball fast between them to beat Patterson and Frangione, and a surprised Beurcht managed to punch away the first try but was beaten by Lucnik's finisher.

There's no doubt about it — when Croat sorts out its material and gets a settled forward line, it will make its presence felt in the State League.

Best for Juventus last Saturday were Beurcht, Frangione, Bukkos, and Griggs, and for Croat, Djukic, Adric, Briscuso, Sal, Lucnik, and Bot.

MARGARITES MOVES UP

The star from Sydney, John Margarites, in devastating form against Polonia, is heading towards the top of the State League goal scorers' list.

Back from Sydney, after an excellent game for Victoria, outside-right Leo Beerenndon was again prominent.

With a fine hat-trick in the game Wilhelmmina-Lions, he's now close up on Allan Villers' heels.

STATE LEAGUE SCORERS

Villers, Hakoah, 4; Beerenndon, Wilhelmmina, 4; Tates, Melb., 4; Margarites, S.M.-Hellas, 4;

Barbazza, Juventus, 3; Gronowski, Polonia, 3; Haasz, Slavia, 3; Hatzeltheriou, S.M.-Hellas, 3; McKenna, G. Cross, 3; Tolakis, S.M.-Hellas, 3; Zielinski, G. Cross, 3;

Bons, Wilhelmmina, 2; Cubero, G. Cross, 2; Dunke, Lions, 2; Goravanti, Juventus, 2; Gibb, G. Cross, 2; Jurecki, Polonia, 2; Ramboisek, Slavia, 2; Rogers, Hakoah, 2;

Schumacher, J.U.S.T., 2; Vadin, Melb., 2; Vella, G. Cross, 2;

Auzzo, Juventus, 1; Buha, J.U.S.T., 1; Bukos, Juventus, 1; Brouwer, Moreland, 1; Deda, Slavia, 1; Dronia, Polonia, 1;

Fink, Croat, 1; Gerdan, S.M.-Hellas, 1; Hartley, Hakoah, 1; Haynes, Hakoah, 1; Kaiser, Melb., 1; Keuken, Wilhelmmina, 1; Ladenhorf, J.U.S.T., 1; McQuillan, Juventus, 1; Mow, Gronowski, Polonia, 1; Opat, Moreland, 1; Papadopoulos, S.M.-Hellas, 1; Rau, Croat, 1; Reuter, Polonia, 1; Slivar, Croat, 1; Twerorjicka, Lions, 1; Van Balkom, Wilhelmmina, 1; Van der Poel, J.U.S.T., 1; Yoros, Polonia, 1; Xenophonous, S.M.-Hellas, 1; Bedford, S.M.-Hellas, 1.

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MINOR TEAMS WERE BOGGED IN THE MUD

Metropolitan round-up

EACH WEEK "Onlooker" will select important matches and bring you summaries of those games the following issue.

Secretaries of metropolitan clubs have been asked to co-operate to bring to the reader an accurate up-to-the-minute page dealing with happenings on and off field in the Metropolitan League.

However, only six clubs have taken advantage of this offer to publicise their clubs. "Are you letting your club down?"

You can ring "Onlooker" at XF 6139 every Saturday night between 6.30 and 10.

PLAYERS AND NEWS

First year player for Brighton Dave Hunt has been one of their best players each week and last week was no exception.

Heidelberg's goalkeeper Noel van Wayenburg saved his team from their first defeat of the season last week when he saved on numerous occasions against a strong attack of Corio. Well done, Noel.

Heinz Eller, Bayswater inside-left, is making his presence felt in this team. Heinz arrived from Hamburg late last season and played the last two games of the season with the first team. This year he has been one of the best players for Bayswater each week.

Tony Duray, Croatia's hard working secretary, tells me that the committee of his club was pleased with the form shown by all players. The loyalty and enthusiasm of the players augurs well next season for this club if they make the State League, as I predict they will.

Steve Freeman, promoted from the Brighton reserves to the first team last week for his first game in open competition, played the game of

his life and certainly earned his promotion.

Bayswater President Bill Robertson refereed the Bayswater v Sandringham game last week and he did a good job. Sandringham were so pleased with Bill's job that they personally thanked him for his effort. Not many clubs bother to thank club officials who referee matches. So thanks go to Bill and Sandringham for showing respect and good sportsmanship.

Popular Heidelberg player Sandy Czipcezer (centre - forward) is marrying an Australian girl from Sydney this week. Heidelberg club are giving him a party at Peter Kilburn's home on Saturday night. Sandy will interrupt his honeymoon to take the field next week against Collingwood.

Croatia soccer club will be holding another one of their popular monthly dances on Saturday, May 19. An invitation is extended to all clubs to send some representatives along and enjoy a wonderful evening's entertainment. The dance will be held in the Kensington Town Hall.

Twenty-three-year-old Law graduate Ivo Astolfi was another former University player to make his come-back with the reserves last week.

Sicilia in an attempt to improve their team introduced a new coach to their club last week against University. He was Marcello Vivoli, former Hakoah player, who played in the inside-left position. Marcello should make an improvement to the team with his capable leadership in the near future. He coached Sicilia when they won the Second Division South premiership in 1958.

Brighton first team prospect Peter De Jonge was injured at work recently and was unable to take his place in the reserves last week. Peter suffered an ankle injury.

Dry and hard grounds of former weeks disappeared rapidly last week as heavy rain turned thick dust into mud for most Metropolitan League games.

The rain affected the standard of all teams, some improving while others slipped back because they were unable to adjust themselves to the new conditions.

Sunshine City, a noted wet-weather team, provided an upset when they defeated Alexander 2-1 last Saturday. Everything points to Alexander being a dry weather specialist.

FIRST NORTH

Two surprise results highlighted last week's matches.

Alexander's defeat by Sunshine City and Maccabi's draw with Box Hill were unexpected results probably brought about by the heavy rain.

The expected battle between coaches Westerveld and Young resulted in a draw in the Maccabi v Box Hill game.

Fiorentina struck their most impressive form of the season to defeat Moonee Ponds 6-0, and Croatia had little opposition from Collingwood.

Under new coach Marcello Vivoli, Sicilia improved their play last week against University. With promising centre-forward Cittarella playing well, this team should move away from the relegation zone shortly.

They have their chance against Sunshine City at Sunshine on Saturday, but if the grounds are muddy Sunshine should win.

There are two really good matches in this league this week. Both games should attract large crowds. They are Heidelberg v Box Hill, and Croatia v Fiorentina.

Two questions should be answered in the Heidelberg-Box Hill game.

Has Box Hill any show of winning this year's premiership, and have Heidelberg improved as much as performances indicate?

I believe Heidelberg will win. Even under astute coach Len Young, Box Hill is just a name of the past. Heidelberg's captain and vice-captain, Scrase and Roberts, should guide their team to victory.

Croatia meet Fiorentina at Tracey's Speedway. Although the visitors improved last week I think the home team should win a hard fought match.

In the other games University at home should beat improving Corio, and Alexander and Maccabi could defeat Moonee Ponds and Collingwood, respectively.

Croat stars fit again

Croat stars Szaur and Huberts should be fit enough to play this week.

Szaur (leg), Huberts (foot) and Pomahac (knee) were missed in the line-up last week through injuries.

Treasurer Harry Mrksa tells Soccer Weekly he's confident his team will go well with Szaur and Huberts back in the side.

DRENNAN STILL GOING WELL

Recalled to the Box Hill side, with the departure of Patterson to Juventus and Bedford to S.M.-Hellas, ex-coach Angus Drennan is having one of his best seasons, and is skipping Box Hill.

Although well into the veteran stage, the ex-Australian international and former Argus Medal winner, is one of the fittest players in Federation soccer. Besides the normal club training, he trains by himself on a local oval every day.

Angus is living proof that hard work is just as important as ability in getting to the top and remaining there.

FIRST SOUTH

Austria with a fine win over Yallourn last week have now moved into premiership calculations.

The shock defeat by Dandenong of Fernree Gully has relegated them to third place on the ladder.

Two excellent goals scored by promising Brighton winger Graeme Pritchard helped his team to beat Makedonia 4-1 in a very one-sided match. Brighton should move further up the ladder with another victory against Yallourn at Yallourn.

Dandenong meet Austria in the best match of the week. Whether Dandenong have improved as much as results indicate will be revealed in this match.

I think Austria will be too good for Dandenong in what should be a rugged game.

Fernree Gully have a chance to move back up the ladder this week when they meet Richmond at Richmond. Another loss to the Gully boys will almost certainly mean that they'll take no further part in premiership discussions this season.

In the other matches Oakleigh may beat Makedonia, Bayswater are tipped to down Trident and Sandringham should have little opposition from Geelong.

SECOND NORTH

Coburg are unbeatable. Their defeat of previous second place team I.C.I., by 11-0, illustrates that there's no team capable of stopping such a strong combination.

With 46 goals scored and only three against, Coburg should add to their impressive list of victories by beating Fairfield.

Essendon should gain another victory at the expense of Cwealth Banks, while N/Olympia and Williams-town could beat Seymour and Libertas respectively.

I.C.I. should regain some of their lost prestige and will endeavor to improve their goal average at the expense of Bendigo, while St. Albans will have little opposition from W.W.F.

SECOND SOUTH

Ringwood's draw with Park Rangers last week allowed Kensington, who defeated Prahran 2-0, to slip into first place on the ladder with eight points.

Triestina with a big victory against Croydon moved

up the to second place together with Ringwood and Park Rangers, all with seven points.

On Saturday the top two teams meet. Kensington play Triestina at Kensington and in this topsy-turvy league anything could happen. I predict the home team will be too good.

In other matches Ringwood, Park Rangers, Moorabbin, Frankston and Sunshine Heights should all gain the points.

Sicilia v University

The clay soil on the Sicilian ground did not allow last week's heavy rain a chance to drain away. Consequently water lay on the ground in large puddles and players had difficulty controlling the ball.

University were first to score, after 10 minutes of the second half.

From a break-away Ellinghaus dribbled the ball past the goalkeeper.

Sicilia replied in the 65th minute, and from then on both sides struggled hard to win.

Sicilia's goal was scored by centre-forward Vince Cittarella.

★

Bayswater v Sandringham Muddy patches on the ground spoilt this game. Both sides were even, and although Sandringham had more experience, Bayswater made up for this with enthusiasm and determined play.

Sandringham opened the scoring in the 15th minute, and apart from this goal the game was in doubt until the final whistle.

Bayswater were best served by W. Steller and H. Eller, while best for Sandringham were Bill Bell, formerly of Slavia, and Ron Ruth, at inside-left. Sandringham goal-scorer, Betts.

★

Corio v Heidelberg Heidelberg scored in the 17th minute when Shanahan converted a pass from Peter Coburn 10 yards out.

Corio had most of the play in the second half and scored in the 55th minute after many good saves had been made by Van Wayenburg.

Heidelberg won the game in the 80th minute when Shanahan scored again with a left-foot shot, which gave the goalkeeper no chance.

The visitors were fortunate to gain two points as Corio played very well, attacking consistently.

★

Brighton v Makedonia All of Brighton's four goals came in the first half. Barry Oldfield took advantage of a defensive error to score with a left-foot shot in the 5th minute.

G. Pritchard scored the next two goals in the 20th and 35th minutes of this game, the first from a lobbing shot, and the second from a rebound off the goalkeeper.

At the 40th minute mark, centreforward Waiter scored the fourth goal from an acute angle.

Makedonia scored their solitary goal late in the second half, when the ball was diverted by Arthur Macartney accidentally into the net.

TEST YOUR SKILL

HERE is an opportunity for you to test your skill at forecasting results of Victorian Federation games for next weekend.

Tune into "Soccer Half Hour" on 3KZ each Saturday at 6.15 p.m. for all the official results.

STATE LEAGUE

S.M.-Hellas v Hakoah ()
Melbourne v George Cross ()
J.U.S.T. v Slavia ()
Moreland v Wilhelmina ()
Juventus v Polonia ()
Lions v Croat ()

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES

S.M.-Hellas v Hakoah ()
Melbourne v George Cross ()
J.U.S.T. v Slavia ()
Moreland v Wilhelmina ()
Juventus v Polonia ()
Lions v Croat ()

FIRST NORTH

Heidelberg v Box Hill ()
Maccabi v Collingwood ()
Croatia v Fiorentina ()
Moonee Ponds v Alexander ()
University v Corio ()
Sunshine City v Sicilia ()

FIRST SOUTH

Dandenong v Austria ()
Yallourn v Brighton ()
Makedonia v Oakleigh ()
Trident v Bayswater ()
Richmond v Fernree Gully ()
Sandringham v Geelong ()

SECOND NORTH

Commonwealth Banks v Essendon ()
Seymour v Norlane-Olympia ()
Williamstown v Libertas ()
St. Albans v W.W.F. ()
I.C.I. v Bendigo ()
Fairfield v Coburg ()

SECOND SOUTH

Rosebud v Ringwood ()
Park Rangers v F.N.D. ()
South Yarra v Moorabbin ()
Frankston v Prahran ()
Croydon v Sunshine Heights ()
Kensington v Triestina ()

FIRST NORTH RESERVES

Heidelberg v Box Hill ()
Maccabi v Norlane-Olympia ()
Croatia v Fiorentina ()
Moonee Ponds v Alexander ()
University v Corio ()
Sunshine City v Coburg ()

FIRST SOUTH RESERVES

Dandenong v Austria ()
Yallourn v Brighton ()
Makedonia v Oakleigh ()
Frankston v Bayswater ()
Richmond v Fernree Gully ()
Sandringham v Geelong ()

SECOND DIVISION RESERVES

Springvale v Ringwood ()
Park Rangers v Moorabbin ()
South Yarra v Azzurri ()
Brunswick v Prahran ()
Geelong Scottish v Ballarat ()
Ajax v Bell Park ()

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What exactly is obstruction?

By DUNCAN McDUGALL

THERE is a widespread belief that obstruction is a form of foul play practised by every team other than your own. The belief is stronger particularly when the opposition comes from a "foreign" country, and the alleged obstruction includes all varieties of dirty tricks, from elbowing to tearing the shirt from an opponent's back.

This, of course, is nonsense. Yet even an article I read recently in an official overseas soccer publication contained numerous references to body checking, shirt pulling and other forms of obstruction. I would point out that shirt pulling is not a form of obstruction, but comes under the heading of "holding".

The difference is important. The punishment for holding — and for pushing, which includes elbowing — is a direct free kick, or a penalty in the area.

That being so, when what is obstruction? The law is clear enough. It defines the offence in these words:

"When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e., running between the opponent and the ball or interposing the body, thus forming an obstacle to an opponent."

It is, however, perfectly legal for a player to use his body to shield the ball from an opponent, provided he is in possession. But once the player gets rid of the ball, any attempt to prevent an opponent from trying to play it is obstruction.

But to balance all this, when a player is obstructing you, there is no need to wait for the referee to award you an indirect free kick. You may think it will suit you better to charge your obstructing opponent from behind — and the laws specifically give you this right. But your charge must not be violent or dangerous.

If the obstruction comes from the opposing goalkeeper, you are allowed to charge him, even when he is not holding the ball and not outside his goal area.

ADVANTAGE RULE

Referees should use the advantage rule in cases of this sort. Where if he thinks your team is likely to benefit more by your charging an obstructing player out of the way than it would from an indirect free kick, the official should not interrupt the play.

However, before you take the law into your own hands, make sure he is obstructing you, and in particular, that he is not playing the ball.

This is commonly considered to mean within playing distance, although there is no authority in the laws for this definition.

Why is the penalty obstruction so much lighter than for offences like pushing and holding? A player can be prevented from scoring a goal by bodychecking, just as surely as by pushing, elbowing and shirt pulling.

For these infringements he will be punished by a direct free kick or a penalty. Yet for bodychecking the

award is only an indirect free.

Why the difference? Why isn't obstruction a major offence too?

The answer to the questions in the first place is that it only recently became an offence at all. The law against holding and pushing dates from the beginning of soccer.

Obstruction was perfectly legal until 10 years ago. Why was it made illegal then? Simply because the British didn't like it!

In the old days when soccer was solely a British game, obstruction was not very common. For defence, British players preferred the good old-fashioned robust tackle and shoulder charge.

Defenders obstructed to let the ball run out of play, but from the beginning opponents were allowed to charge from behind. This seemed a perfectly good counter to obstructionist tactics without any help from the referee.

VARYING STYLES

When soccer spread first to the Continent and then rapidly became world-wide, British ideas about hard tackling and charging didn't make the same progress. Different countries adopted varying styles of defensive action.

On the Continent, obstruction, in particular, by both teams and individuals was really developed to a science.

So a gulf appeared between British and "foreign" soccer. The British went on charging and the overseas teams continued gaily with their near perfect obstructing tactics and neither certainly liked the other's technique. Finally, in 1952, the International Board tried to bridge the gulf by making obstruction illegal.

In other words this international body, which has supreme control where laws of the game are concerned, ruled that over obstruction the foreigners should toe the British line.

The decision was passed with a four-fifths majority, which is not so surprising as it sounds, for four-fifths of the International Board voting members happen to be British.

With a four-fifths majority required for any law alteration, the British members have the power to make changes wherever they like, even if it is opposed by the remainder of the soccer world.

By making obstruction illegal, the International Board did not really bridge the gulf. On the contrary, it tended to widen it.

One result of the new rule in Britain was that defenders were for the first time penalised for trying to protect their goalkeeper, a traditional form of defence. It was one of the few forms that hardly ever existed

abroad, where even now goalkeepers are rarely charged.

Foreigners have always disliked the British custom of hammering the goalie when the opportunity arose, and in international matches prior to 1951 protected their custodians in traditional British style. Now this practice had become illegal, while charging goalkeepers was still regarded as good, clean fun.

This new legislation did not satisfy the Scots. They wanted obstruction a major offence, punishable by a direct free kick or penalty.

Scotland repeated this demand in 1953 when the International Board met — with the Welsh and Irish in full support.

Trust the Celts to stick together! The two F.I.F.A. members were, of course, opposed to the idea, and the votes of the English F.A., east against the Scottish proposal were decisive, so obstruction remained an indirect free.

With typical northern stubbornness, the Scots have been urging the change ever since. The English continue to support F.I.F.A. in resisting the Scottish demand. There seems to be two reasons for this.

ONLY HUMAN

Firstly, in soccer, as in any other sport, drastic punishment is liable to defeat its own ends. Although opinions may differ, referees are only human, and it happens already that mild technical breaches are often punished less severely inside the penalty area than outside.

He has no right to do this, of course — it should be a penalty or nothing — but it happens continually all the same.

Similarly, when the ball is too far inside the penalty area for this, the referee may award an indirect free kick against the offenders for a minor offence, whereas if it had occurred outside the area the punishment would have been a direct free kick for a major offence.

Referees generally would not enjoy having to award a penalty for obstruction — an offence that was perfectly clean play until 1952. As a result, many cases would go unpunished and the law in contempt.

If passed, the proposal would be against the wishes of most of the football world. It would, in fact, be forced upon nearly 100 countries by the four members of the British Football Association.

Also, it would not be just a rule for international matches. It would apply to all classes of football in every country represented in F.I.F.A.

● The views of the author are not necessarily those of Soccer Weekly.

SOCCER MAN'S DIARY 27

By DON SUTHERLAND



AS WE all know, it is extremely difficult to obtain the publicity for soccer which the sport really deserves. However, an impromptu discussion last Friday on Channel 7's "Daly at Night" program gave soccer some of the best publicity that it has had for a long time. In response to a query from compere Jonathan Daly concerning the relative merits of different codes of football, two famous Australian-born TV personalities in Horrie Dargie and Frank Thring both declared themselves strongly in favor of soccer as the most attractive and skilful code of football.

It was probably the first time that Lou Richards had ever been forced to defend the merits of Victorian Rules football on a TV or radio network and he appeared to find it difficult going against the dominant personalities of Frank Thring and Horrie Dargie.

These two gentlemen would certainly be welcome guests at Olympic Park if they wished to enjoy the thrills and spectacle of a first-class game of soccer!

INCIDENTALLY, in last week's column I stated that it was Tony Charlton who received a handsome cheque from Mr Stuart Beaton as the Victorian Federation's contributions towards the Sporting Globe-3DB Good Friday Appeal, whereas it was, of course, that capable Channel 7 personality, Michael Williamson.

CONSIDERABLE public condemnation has recently taken place in Victorian soccer circles concerning a vindictive article published in a Melbourne "newspaper" which is noted for sensation-seeking. Personally, I feel that it is far better to ignore such articles than to condemn them. We know that soccer is growing day by day in Australia, as it has done in most parts of the world, and if we are to continue to progress we must expect small-minded and even unjust criticism from those who are jealous of our progress.

With the world-wide support of soccer behind us surely we can ignore occasional malicious attacks by people who do not truly represent the majority of sportsmen who play and follow other codes.

A NOTEWORTHY fixture of the Victorian squad was selected to play against New South Wales recently was that it contained two Australian-born players for the first time in recent years. The two were Teddy Smith and Johnny Bedford of South Melbourne-Hellas. If my memory serves me correctly the last time two Australian-born players were in the State squad was when Angus Drennan and Jackie Wilson were in the team.

Another interesting fact about the recent squad was that it contained no fewer than three players who were with Box Hill last year, namely Kenny, Bedford and reserve goalie Martin Beuchlt. Judging by their performances in the past two weeks Box Hill could certainly do with players of this calibre at the present time!

THE surprise of 1st Division soccer this season has been the excellent showing of Heidelberg, who are currently in second place in 1st Division Nth, only one point behind Croatia. Heidelberg made a very poor start in 2nd Division Nth last year but showed striking improvement in the latter half of the season. With the additions of strong players like Czipcezer and Colbourne, Heidelberg have maintained this improvement.

This clash with Box Hill this week could draw the biggest attendance which the club has had for years and will be a true test of ability. Popular Heidelberg secretary Jim Chesters has been secretary of his club for very many years and his length of service could probably not be beaten by any soccer official in Victoria.

ALTHOUGH Victoria was defeated 2-0 by N.S.W. in the Australian Championship game at Olympic park on Easter Monday, the State team made up for this defeat, with a vengeance, by defeating N.S.W., 4-3 in Sydney two days later. I am not one of those who believe that Victoria was completely outplayed in the Olympic Park game. They certainly did not have all the luck of the game but they certainly had their share of the play. The Victorian players and officials deserve congratulations for their efforts over the holiday period.

Victoria will participate in two further interstate fixtures during the season. On June 4 Victoria meet Queensland at Olympic Park and on August 11 we play South Australia in Adelaide. With more practice as a team Victoria will do extremely well in these games and should gain four valuable points.

THE Referees' Association, through executive members, Messrs Fedler, Lamb and Bartolo, recently suggested that the Federation should appoint a sub-committee to receive complaints made against referees and to present to them those complaints which the sub-committee felt were valid and reasonable. They promised to give full consideration to such complaints. However, until such a sub-committee can be formed the Referees' Association could investigate the reason why the Bayswater club has not had a referee for their reserve games this season and on last Saturday no referee was present for either the reserve team or the first team games. In the main game Bayswater President Bill Robertson officiated, and under the circumstances he performed very creditably. However, it is very wrong for club officials to have to officiate at vital premiership fixtures and it is to be hoped that every attempt will be made to prevent such occurrences in the future.

THE English Cup Final between Tottenham Hotspurs and Burnley takes place this Saturday at Wembley and the Australian Broadcasting Commission is to give its usual excellent coverage of this wonderful match. A direct radio broadcast will commence this Saturday night at 11.20 from 3AR and Regional stations and will continue throughout the game. A summary will be broadcast from 3AR at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday, May 6, while a BBC telecording of the game will be flown to Melbourne for screening on Channel 2.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Soccer has only recently become recognised as a major sport in Victoria but already it is the only code of football which produces its own weekly newspaper — make sure it circulates!

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The Pick of the Post

OLONIA FANS ARE "UP IN ARMS"

In "The Pick of the Post" this week is a letter from 22 irate Polonia fans complaining about the location of Olympic Park games to their club.

This is what they say: "With a disappointment we read notice the Olympic Park games for the next month (April 1962), and Polonia Club, as top team in the State League in Victoria, has not a single one there. Other teams like SM, Illas, which is on the top of the competition, have four games. We protest and ask all our followers to join."

(Signed by 22 Polonia fans.)
The allocation of Olympic Park matches is decided by the Fixtures Committee and not by Soccer Weekly—Editor.

Here is a copy of a letter Soccer Weekly reader sent to the Editor of the Truth last week:

"I read in Truth, April 21, an article, 'The Pick of the Post', which declares war on soccer. What a dictatorship! It sounds like Hitler's army. I thought this country was a democracy. It does not sound like it, not in sport, anyhow. In England there are two sides of sport, soccer and rugby, but they do not declare war on one another. In any sport is allowed in schools."

I was a rugby fan in my early years but went over to soccer later because it was more skilful and is a wonderful game when played by expert players.

All codes of football could be played in the schools, and let the boys play the one they like, not forced to play one game.

—John W. Gill, 22 Gray St. East Geelong.

"IR.—Congratulations on Soccer Weekly. It is great paper. I am one of many Australians who do the English football pools, and wonder if you could spare a little space for long-range forecasts, even if only for Victoria. If you could forecast in the Thursday for Vic-

BE BRIEF

Readers are asked to be brief when writing to the Editor. In the past week 23 letters have been received for publication, but many of them would fill a column. Soccer Weekly welcomes your views, but please write on one side of the page and BE BRIEF.

Address your correspondence to Soccer Weekly, No. 1 Oval, Olympic Park, Swan St. Melbourne.

torian matches for the following Saturday week, it would help a lot, as we do not have to post our entries till the Friday or Saturday.

Also, could you occasionally publish a ladder of the Interstate teams to give us some idea of the strength of the team?

Wishing you and Soccer Weekly increasing success.

—(Miss) E. Finkelstein, Scott St. Belmont. Geelong.

As from next week Soccer Weekly will cater for all Pools fans — Editor.

"SIR.—Messrs Tracey, Buckner and Barr appear to be enjoying the opening rounds by slinging off at the referees. A great pity such authorities on the game completely miss the real issues and fail to tell the whole story."

I am told these three are leading lights of the newly formed Federation which has bravely promised a "new deal" in soccer. They are off to a bad start. The truth is the Federation clubs are not capable of controlling their own players, let alone control the game in Victoria. They need to discipline themselves if the game is going to improve more.

Constant bickering between team mates, opponents, referees, petty infringements, are

continually slowing up the game. They should be told strongly by club managers to play more soccer with less nonsense or get out of the game. A few fresh faces in the line-ups would be very welcome anyway!

I recall one English club which had an unwritten law that any player sent off for deliberate foul play never played for them again. He was immediately put on transfer. In twenty years they had only a handful of players before disciplinary committees.

The standard in State League Reserve games is pathetic and shows a lack of elementary coaching. The opening State League games have all been low scoring, goals win games, get the ball in the net more and the crowds will come in.

It needs a concentrated effort by all phases of the game if it is to continue to advance in Victoria.

—POMMY.

"SIR.—Coburg Utd. under the leadership of Frank Loughran (ex-Moreland) have shown teams in Second North that they're making an all out effort for promotion. New faces in the team are P. Murray and C. Earley, inside-forwards, A. Cairns, centre-forward, and coach Loughran."

C. Earley is really on the ball. He has scored nine goals in three matches and Loughran has seven. P. Murray missed the game against Seymour due to injury, but he is now fully recovered. Last year's players J. Grant, B. Young, J. M. Fall, J. Farugia and J. Faulkner are all showing improved form. D. Brown in goal has not been tested this season, but Coburg are sure he'll play to last year's high standard.

—Wm. CLEMENTS, Cosmos St. Glenroy.

"SIR.—I think your new paper is really tops and must be the best soccer paper in Australia, and if there is a better one I would certainly like to read it."

As I was recently appointed publicity officer for Box Hill I have advertised our game every week in three different local papers, also I have sent in reports of the game.

This seems to have stirred more interest in the game locally and we have been getting more known in a much wider area through the contacts of these papers.

It is very true, to advertise makes people realise. Why don't other teams advertise in their local papers? Very few do.

—N. L. FOSTER (Publicity Officer) Box Hill SC, 12 Richard St. Glen Waverley.

It certainly pays to advertise. Keep up the good work Sir. Box Hill is on the up and up, and with more workers like yourself they can't fail to make the State League again.

"SIR.—It is observed that Mr Sutherland states in his column, that the

Metropolitan League clubs, at a meeting to be convened shortly "will confirm their members in council."

This is an impertinent suggestion, as the Metropolitan clubs have the right to elect such members from candidates properly nominated and seconded.

Let us have no short cuts or manoeuvres, whether in the "interests of soccer" or in any other interests.

Further, the Metropolitan clubs were promised by the present chairman, Mr T. McManus, that they would be allowed their own management committee. Surely the time is ripe for election of this committee.

—Lt Cdr J. L. BELBIN FND Soccer Club.

"SIR.—As a soccer fan and regular reader of your very interesting paper, I would appreciate if you could enlighten me on one subject that has been baffling me for some time."

How are the Olympic Park games being allotted to the various clubs?

From the last issue it appears that Juventus, South Melbourne-Hellas and George Cross are by far the most favored teams to be selected for play at the Park. They will be seen during May on three occasions, while Wilhelmina only once, and Polonia not even once!

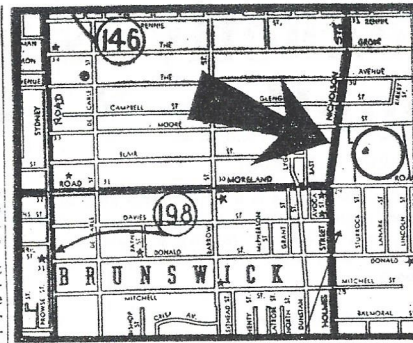
You will agree that it is hard to understand why the last year's champion, and one of the fairest teams of the code, are not given a chance to play at the Park, in my opinion, to the detriment of the game, which can only be boosted by a fair and eye-pleasing display of soccer.

—H. R. WAXMAN, 4 Southey St. Elwood.

Olympic Park fixtures are made by the Federation Fixtures Committee. I suggest you write to the chairman for details on how they make their selection — Editor.

"SIR.—In the interests of good soccer I suggest Federation officials should give the Ringwood ground the "once over". It is in a shocking condition.

—WALLY CLAYTON, Frankston.



LIONS v Croat

MURPHY RESERVE, PORT MELBOURNE

CARS: Take Normanby Rd from south end of Spencer St bridge to Port Melbourne. Cricket ground, then proceed half a mile on Williamstown Rd to ground. From St. Kilda take Esplanade and Beaconsfield Parade into Beach Rd and Williamstown Rd. TRAIN: To Graham Station. BUSES: Garden City and Fishermen's Bend buses from Flinders St and Queens Bridge.



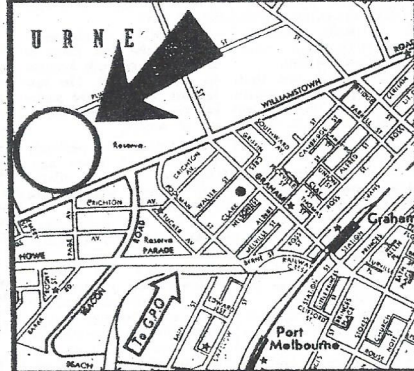
J.U.S.T. v Slavia

SHINTLER RESERVE, FOOTSCRAY

CARS: New Footscray Rd. Turn right into Sims St just before Maribyrnong River Bridge (formerly called the "Swing Bridge"). Or Dynon Rd. Turn left into Sims St.

BUSES: From terminus at Queen St at the corner of Flinders St. Take bus marked "via Footscray Rd."

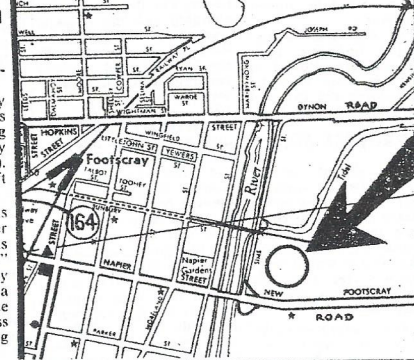
TRAIN: To Footscray Station, then walk half a mile east toward Melbourne on Napier St and cross bridge at the Maribyrnong River.



JUVENTUS v Polonia

ELSTERNWICK PARK, Glenhenty Rd, Elsternwick.

CARS: St. Kilda Rd and Brighton Rd. or Williams Rd and Hotham St. to Glenhenty Rd. TRAM: Carnegie No. 4 tram from Swanston St or St. Kilda Rd to Stop No. 41 at Glenhenty Rd. TRAIN: Take Brighton Beach or Sandringham train to Elsternwick station, then walk quarter-mile west on Glenhenty Rd.



JUNIORS IMPRESS J.U.S.T.

By ALBERT MERRILLS

J.U.S.T. are impressed by the showing of their Junior teams and praise Mr Z. Nikolic and his Junior Committee for the good work they're doing, and in particular coaches Linberg and Martonleic.

J.U.S.T. Under-12 added another win to keep them top of Zone B, beating West Newport 4-0.

Best players and goal-scorers for J.U.S.T. were Linberg, Todorovic, Lever, Kupinic, Simenic. For West Newport: Borg.

The Under-16's beat Sunshine City in a game which was saw-sawed. The star was Kolleris, who scored three goals for J.U.S.T. and he was well supported by Manine, McBean and Dimic.

Final: J.U.S.T. 3, Sunshine 2. In the Under-14 Zone A.

Sunshine City beat North Sunshine 1-0 in a thrill-a-minute match. City were lucky to get away with both points from a goal scored by inside-right Collin Molloy.

Star was North Sunshine goalie Kobza, whose strong play saved his side time and again.

Kobza and Skrobolak were best for North, and Fenech and Czernicki best for City.

SECOND TEAM

Noble Park has formed a second Under-14 team.

The boys are among the smallest in the competition and though well beaten last week by Melbourne, they keep on trying. Goalkeeper Kemeling was not disgraced and saved his team from a heavier defeat. Wallace,

Theissens, Karlake and Delves also played well. Melbourne scorers: Kurta 7, Soveny 6, Palyansky 4, Manson 2 and Roessler.

Springvale Under-14's beat Wilhelmina 6-3, keeping them up with Sh Melbourne in the fight for league leaders.

Hans Rubens played well and led his defence to give plenty of support to their forwards. Pegola, Ton and Bayerbach scored the goals.

The Under-16's continued their winning run by defeating Dandenong 3-2. Paul Rubens, the goal-getting centre-forward from Springvale, was not on form but his team mates showed that they knew where the goal was.

Beasley, Raymeys and Bove scored for Springvale. Both teams praised the referee's handling of the game.

Trident Under-12's scored a 4-0 win over Sacred Heart and this puts them at the top of Zone A. Goal-scorers: Alexsic 2, Anolak and Dolinowsky.

Trident Under-14's also defeated their opponents, Olympia, by 5-1. Although beaten by four goals, Olympia played well. Trident scorers: Chudiak 3, Richards and Tarasik.

They're missing Alex Beattie

Despite their hand in the State J.U.S.T. are missing goal-scoring ability of Beattie, who is playing Adelaide.

They have scored only five goals in five games, and only three State League sides have fewer goals to their credit.



JUST ARRIVED!

Famous Adidas

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'SANTOS' 159/6
This popular boot has the new nylon sole with screw-in nylon stops.

'WELT MEISTER' 199/6
Low cut, lightweight boot, flexible nylon soles, screw-in nylon stops.

Melbourne Sports Depot

55 Elizabeth St, 255 Swanston St and Chadstone

INTERSTATE ROUND-UP

HAKOAH OUTCLASSED

Unbeaten NSW soccer team Apia-Leichhardt's convincing 3-0 victory over Hakoah on Sunday was yet another triumph for player-coach Leo Baumgartner. After a while Baumgartner did almost as he liked in his role as a deep-lying centre-forward.

The crowd in the grandstand rose and cheered him from the field at half-time and at the end of the match.

Baumgartner completely dominated the game with his dazzling ball control and flair for moving into the open spaces.

He fully deserved to score the first two goals for Apia.

Hakoah were completely outclassed.

Apia 3 (L. Baumgartner 2, V. Wentzel) bent Hakoah 0.

Crowd 6027.

Yagal 4 (T. Yellavich 3, A. Ninovich) drew with Fragar 4 (W. Tannand 2, L. Scheinflug, H. Ninas).

Crowd 1200.

Auburn 8 (R. Polwell, own goal, B. Staples) bent Gladstone 0.

Crowd 550.

NSW, 1st Div.: Bankstown 2, Pan-Hellenic 0; Budapest 6, Canterbury 2; South Coast 2, Polonia 0.

HOW THEY STAND

	W	L	D	F	A	P
Apia	4	—	—	16	3	8
Bankstown	4	—	—	12	3	8
Budapest	4	—	—	17	9	6
Fragar	2	1	1	12	13	5
S. Coast	2	2	—	12	8	4
Pan-Hellenic	2	2	—	5	7	4
Gladstone	2	2	—	3	9	4
Canterbury	1	3	—	18	11	2
Hakoah	1	3	—	4	7	2
Auburn	1	3	—	4	12	2
Yagal	—	3	1	8	16	1
Polonia-N.S.	—	12	1	—	—	—

NEWSPAPER AWARD

The two new leaders in "The Sydney Morning Herald" best and fairest soccer player competition, Leo Baumgartner (Apia) and Bobby Madden (Bankstown) will be directly opposed next Sunday.

Centre-half Madden will have the difficult task of marking raving centre-forward Baumgartner in the clash between unbeaten joint competition leaders Bankstown and Apia.

Baumgartner and Madden both gained major awards of the weekend.

This took their totals to seven points each in the four premiership rounds to date.

QUEENSLAND WIN

Sydney soccer referee Roy Pearce controlled a match between Queensland and South Australia at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground on Sunday.

Queensland were on top from the start to win 3-1, after veteran inside-left Max Wild and Col Kitching each scored two goals for Queensland.

MANAGER RETAINED

The NSW Soccer Federation retained Jim Bayatti as manager of the State team to meet Queensland this week.

Consignment for J. U. S. T.

A cable will arrive soon to inform J.U.S.T. club of the departure from Yugoslavia of four new stars.

All four are first division players, one being a full international and another a youth international.

The go-ahead committee of J.U.S.T. should be applauded, for not only strengthening their own line-up, but also endeavouring to give the paying public of Victoria a higher class of soccer in general.



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The Lightest The Best

Famous Make "PIOLA" Continental SOCCER BOOTS

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New Metropolitan Supply Co.

352 DRUMMOND STREET, CARLTON — PJ5604

NOW AT ALL LEADING SPORT STORES

ALL YOUR SOCCER DETAILS

STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D
GEORGE CROSS	5	3	2	0	12	4	8
HAKOAH	5	3	1	1	12	5	7
POLONIA	5	3	1	1	9	5	7
S.M.-HELLAS	5	3	0	2	15	6	6
JUVENTUS	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
J.U.S.T.	5	3	0	2	5	4	6
CROAT	5	2	1	2	3	8	5
WILHELMINA	4	2	1	1	7	6	5
SLAVIA	4	1	2	1	6	4	4
MELBOURNE	5	1	1	3	7	10	3
LIONS	5	0	1	4	3	13	1
MORELAND	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

Slavia v Wilhelmina, 21/4/62: Protest upheld. Replay ordered.

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D
Wilhelmina	4	4	0	0	27	4	8
S.M.-Hellas	4	4	0	0	24	3	8
Melbourne	5	4	0	1	16	12	8
Hakoah	5	4	0	1	13	6	7
J.U.S.T.	5	3	0	2	20	7	6
SLAVIA	5	2	2	1	10	11	6
George Cross	5	2	1	2	6	10	5
Juventus	5	2	0	3	14	10	4
Croat	5	1	0	4	10	26	2
Moreland	5	2	3	7	12	2	0
Polonia	5	0	1	4	5	15	1
Lions	5	0	0	5	9	25	0

SECOND SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D
Kensington	5	4	0	1	13	4	8
Triestina	5	3	1	1	11	7	7
Ringwood	5	3	1	1	17	7	7
Park Rangers	5	3	1	1	16	7	7
Frankston	4	2	1	1	17	11	5
Moorabbin	4	2	1	1	9	7	5
F.N.D.	5	2	1	2	16	19	5
South Yarra	5	2	0	3	5	9	4
Croydon	5	1	1	3	8	24	3
Prachan	5	1	0	4	9	15	2
Sunshine Heights	4	1	0	3	4	15	2
Rosebud	4	0	1	3	3	10	1

LAST WEEK

STATE LEAGUE

Hakoah 2, Melbourne 1
George Cross 2, J.U.S.T. 1
Slavia 5, Moreland 1
Croat 1, Juventus 0
Polonia 1, S.M.-Hellas 4
Wilhelmina 4, Lions 1

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES

Hakoah 4, Melbourne 3
George Cross 1, J.U.S.T. 0
Slavia 2, Moreland 2
Croat 2, Juventus 0
Polonia 0, S.M.-Hellas 3
Wilhelmina 3, Lions 1

FIRST DIVISION NORTH

Box Hill 0, Maccabi 0
Collingwood 1, Croatia 6
Melbourne 5, Melbourne Ponds 0
Slavia 1, University 1
Corio 1, Heidelberg 2
Alexander 1, Sunshine City 2

FIRST DIVISION SOUTH

Brighton 4, Makedonia 1
Okleigh 6, Trident 0
Essendon 3, Richmond 3
Fernree Gully 2, Dandenong 5
Baywater 0, Sandringham 1

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Essendon 5, Seymour 1
Norlane-Olympia 1, Winton 0
Libertas 3, St. Albans 0
Coburg 11, I.C.I. 0
Bendigo W.O., Wealth B. LP
W.W.F. 2, Fairfield 6

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Rosebud v Ringwood
Park Rangers v F.N.D.
South Yarra v Moorabbin
Frankston v Prachan
Croydon v Sunshine Heights
Kensington v Triestina

FIRST DIVISION NORTH RESERVES

Heidelberg v Box Hill
Maccabi v Norlane-Olympia
Croat v Fiorentina
University v Corio
Sunshine City v Coburg

FIRST DIVISION SOUTH RESERVES

Dandenong v Austria
Yallourn v Brighton
Makedonia v Okleigh
Frankton v Baywater
Richmond v Fernree Gully
Sandringham v Geelong

SECOND DIVISION NORTH RESERVES

Springvale v Geelong
Park Rangers v Azurri
South Yarra v Moorabbin
Brunswick v Prachan
Geelong Scottish v Ballarat
Ajax v Bell Park

THIS WEEK

STATE LEAGUE

S.M.-Hellas v Hakoah
Melbourne v George Cross
J.U.S.T. v Slavia
Moreland v Wilhelmina
Juventus v Polonia
Lions v Croat

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES

S.M.-Hellas v Hakoah
Melbourne v George Cross
J.U.S.T. v Slavia
Moreland v Wilhelmina
Lions v Croat

FIRST DIVISION NORTH

Heidelberg v Box Hill
Maccabi v Melbourne Ponds
Croatia v Fiorentina
University v Alexander
Corio v Sunshine City
Sunshine City v Slavia

FIRST DIVISION SOUTH

Dandenong v Austria
Yallourn v Brighton
Makedonia v Okleigh
Trident v Baywater
Richmond v Fernree Gully
Sandringham v Geelong

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Essendon v Seymour
Norlane-Olympia v Winton
Libertas v St. Albans
Coburg v I.C.I.
Bendigo v Wealth B.
W.W.F. v Fairfield

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Rosebud v Ringwood
Park Rangers v F.N.D.
South Yarra v Moorabbin
Frankston v Prachan
Croydon v Sunshine Heights
Kensington v Triestina

FIRST DIVISION NORTH RESERVES

Heidelberg v Box Hill
Maccabi v Norlane-Olympia
Croat v Fiorentina
University v Corio
Sunshine City v Coburg

FIRST DIVISION SOUTH RESERVES

Dandenong v Austria
Yallourn v Brighton
Makedonia v Okleigh
Frankton v Baywater
Richmond v Fernree Gully
Sandringham v Geelong

SECOND DIVISION NORTH RESERVES

Springvale v Geelong
Park Rangers v Azurri
South Yarra v Moorabbin
Brunswick v Prachan
Geelong Scottish v Ballarat
Ajax v Bell Park

FIRST NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D
Croatia	5	5	0	0	19	2	10
Heidelberg	5	4	1	0	12	2	9
Alexander	5	3	1	1	15	5	7
Box Hill	5	3	1	1	9	5	7
Florentino	5	3	0	2	11	6	6
Sunshine City	5	2	1	2	8	9	5
University	5	1	2	2	5	8	4
Moonee Ponds	5	1	2	2	4	11	4
Maccabi	5	0	3	2	5	8	0
Corio	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Sicilia	5	0	2	3	3	13	2
Collingwood	5	0	1	4	5	21	1

FIRST NORTH RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D
Box Hill	5	4	1	0	37	1	9
Croatia	5	4	1	0	17	6	9
Alexander	5	4	0	1	21	4	9
Heidelberg	5	4	0	1	13	4	8
Moonee Ponds	4	3	0	1	11	7	6
University	5	2	1	2	4	4	5
Sunshine City	5	2	0	3	2	12	4
Coburg	5	1	1	3	3	11	3
Maccabi	5	1	0	4	2	14	2
Norlane-Olympia	5	1	0	4	3	12	2
Corio	5	1	0	4	1	12	2
Florentino	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

NEXT WEEK

STATE LEAGUE

Hakoah v Juventus
George Cross v S.M.-Hellas
Moreland v Wilhelmina
Polonia v J.U.S.T.
Lions v Croat

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES

George Cross v S.M.-Hellas
Slavia v Melbourne
Moreland v J.U.S.T.
Polonia v Lions
Wilhelmina v Croat

FIRST DIVISION NORTH

Box Hill v University
Collingwood v Heidelberg
Corio v Maccabi
Moonee Ponds v Croatia
Corio v Sunshine City
Alexander v Sicilia

FIRST DIVISION SOUTH

Austria v Richmond
Brighton v Dandenong
Okleigh v Yallourn
Trident v Makedonia
Fernree Gully v Sandringham
Baywater v Geelong

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Essendon v Winton
Norlane-Olympia v Winton
Libertas v St. Albans
Coburg v I.C.I.
Bendigo v Wealth B.
W.W.F. v Coburg

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Ringwood v Croydon
F.N.D. v Rosebud
Moorabbin v Park Rangers
Frankston v South Yarra
Sunshine Heights v Kensington
Prachan v Triestina

FIRST NORTH RESERVES

Box Hill v University
Norlane-Olympia v Heidelberg
Florentino v Maccabi
Moonee Ponds v Croatia
Corio v Sunshine City
Alexander v Coburg

FIRST SOUTH RESERVES

Austria v Richmond
Brighton v Dandenong
Okleigh v Yallourn
Frankton v Makedonia
Fernree Gully v Sandringham
Baywater v Geelong

SECOND DIVISION NORTH RESERVES

Springvale v Geelong
Park Rangers v Azurri
South Yarra v Moorabbin
Brunswick v Prachan
Geelong Scottish v Ballarat
Ajax v Bell Park

FIRST SOUTH

	P
Richmond	5
Austria	5
Ferntree Gully . .	5
Sandringhom . . .	5
Oakleigh	5
Dandenong	5
Brighton	5
Bayswater	5
Yallourn	5
Makedonia	5
Geelong	5
Trident	5

LATE NEWS DURING
EXTRA-TIME

FA cup on 3AR
The English Football Association Cup Final between Burnley and Tottenham Hotspurs will be broadcast on 3AR at 11.20 p.m. on Saturday.

LATEST ON ZIENTARA

Latest report on the ankle injury sustained by newly-arrived Polish international Edmund Zientara in the Polonia-Hellas game on Sunday is that the tissues around the ankle have been pulled and are distorted. Dr Charles Walker, Polonia president, said late last night that the ankle is in plaster and that Zientara may not train for at least two weeks.

ZIELINSKI ON THE IMPROVE

George Cross player Horst Zielinski, in Royal Melbourne Hospital with a broken leg, is improving. After the first week of nursing his injured leg, doctors state the break was a complete compound fracture and there appears to be no complications. If everything goes well he should be up and about in a few weeks. George Cross officials want to arrange for Horst to see their game against South M.Hellas at Olympic Park on Saturday week. Mr. De Bono, club president, said that it is essential to get Horst to the ground for the big match.

GEORGE CROSS SHOULD STAY ON TOP

By MORRIE BUCKNER

George Cross is riding high after a clear-cut win over J.U.S.T. at the Showgrounds last Saturday and looks all set for another victory over Melbourne at Olympic Park on Sunday.

Even without Horst Zielinski, who is out with a fractured leg, George Cross has put together one of its best-ever scoring combinations in Lolly Vella, Pepe Cubero, Marshall Gibb, Don Hodgson, and Bill Copeland.

That line-up is full of experience and goals, the ability to test the toughest defence, and the knack of giving the spectators their full four-bob's worth of entertainment.

At left-half, Joey Falzon is one of the most improved players in Victoria, and the soundness of the remaining regulars — Pat McKenna, Fred Falzon, Vin Muscat, and Eddie Sacco — is without question.

The Maltese club's only headache appears to be in finding a goalkeeper to replace Norm Hobson.

Melbourne, on the other hand, has never settled down to winning form this season. A win over Lions, and a draw with Croatia, alternating with defeats by Juventus, Polonia and Hakoah is an indication of where Melbourne can hope to finish on the ladder this year — above the tail-enders but well below the leaders.

But win or lose, Melbourne plays a neat and classy brand of football, and Sunday's match at the Park should be a major attraction.

Headache for Hellas

Hellas has a problem. It will cause some head-scratching, but no unhappiness for the club. The 11 players who beat Polonia last Sunday earned regular selection in the side. Now what does Hellas do with other classy senior players like Basil Kourkoulakos, George Penzo, Savas Salabassides and George Papadopoulos? Well, at least it's nice to know that top-class reserves are available when injuries occur.

FOCUS ON OPINION

TERRY SMITH, Sydney Morning Herald soccer writer, commenting on NSW 3-4 defeat by Victoria in Sydney last week:

"Victoria played goalkeeper Norm Hobson in the second-half SIMPLY to allow Sydney clubs to have a look at him . . . and he was most impressive. An acrobatic save by Hobson prevented Herbert Ninasu from gaining a draw for NSW in the final minute."


FRANK THRING, well-known actor on HSV-7's Daly at Night program: "I prefer soccer to Rules because it's more skilful."

THE TRUTH, April 28: (The Truth replies to comment which appeared the previous week on "VFL declares war on Soccer").

"Truth is not taking action to curb the growth of soccer — the VFL is. Our football writer, Brian Hansen, applauded the move. That is his business. He has complete freedom to write his opinions in these pages. So have all readers."

GEOFF PRENTER, in the Sydney "TELEGRAPH": "International Frank Broome, who wore England's colors 18 times, has introduced a bold selection scheme in the Bankstown (Sydney) club. He has declared that the club's second team will have no players over 21 years of age, and the third team will comprise lads under 18. Broome bases this swing to youth on the proven capabilities of young Australians in other sports, and feels that there is an abundance of natural talent in junior competition which is allowed to pass unnoticed."

WORLD'S NO. 1 FOOTBALL GAME
THRILLING NON-STOP ACTION!
GO TO SOCCER THIS WEEK END



More than 5000 copies of this poster have been distributed by the NSW Federation to publicise soccer in the State. Mr J. van Hobeke, Victorian Federation Publicity Chairman, is working on a similar plan to publicise the code in Victoria.

Winner of the Soccer Half Hour quiz on 3KZ at 6.15 p.m. last Saturday was Mr V. Ogorelec, of 4 Thames St, West Heidelberg. He receives ticket No. 190659 in Tattersall's No. 1184 draw.

MATCH POINTS

Man with a smile on his face last Saturday was Mr Andy Kunn, vice-president of Melbourne S.C. He had spent the day watching his two junior teams humble their opponents to the tune of 43 goals to nil. The under-14 side beat Noble Park B team 20-0, and the under-18 team beat Wesley College 23-0.

Federation Publicity Chairman, Mr J. Van Hoboken, presided at a meeting of the Soccer Weekly editorial staff at Ringwood last Friday. Plans were outlined to promote sales and continue the high standard of this newspaper.

Soccer half-time scores ARE broadcast over the public address system at Olympic Park every Saturday at 4 p.m. For those who haven't heard them, make sure you listen next week at this time.

That lass who stepped out of the helicopter at Olympic Park with flowers for Edmund Zientara last Sunday was a lovely young high school student from Kingsville way and a staunch Polonia supporter.

Listen for a report on the important Heidelberg-Croatia match in the First North Division next Saturday on 3KZ's

MATTHEWS WARNED BY LEAGUE

From our Special Correspondent

LONDON, TUES.—The Stanley Matthews riddle is solved. He will be back from Bermuda this week, only to be told by Stoke City Manager, Mr Waddington, that his summer visit to Canada is off.

Last year, Haynes and Macedo of Fulham, Danny Blanchflower, Tottenham, and Stanley Matthews received special permission from the League and their clubs to play in Canada. This year the League Management Committee banned players appearing in overseas competitive soccer.

Mr Waddington said that Stoke City were prepared to give Matthews a free transfer now and when he returned from overseas they would sign him on.

The League Management Committee informed clubs yesterday that—

"If a player is given a free transfer and plays in Canada or Australia, on his return his registration will not be accepted next season by the League."

Keen interest in Argus medal

Each week a secret 3,21 vote is decided and put in a sealed envelope by each of the State League referees to find the "Argus" Gold Medal "Best and Fairest" player of the year.

These envelopes are kept by the secretary of the Referees' Association and remain sealed until the end of the State League games.



LEXI'S TWO BEST FRIENDS